

## Look How You and Other Paws of Honor Supporters Are Helping to Save the Lives of Four-Legged Heroes Like Aro

Let me take a moment to introduce you to **K9 Aro, one of the over 300 retired hero dogs Paws of Honor is proud to support** in their sunset years. Aro served for seven years with the **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**, during which time he was responsible for the apprehension of over 2,000 subjects in the field and over 100 drug seizures.

In December 2022, **Aro was in extreme pain and was taken to an emergency vet.** An MRI revealed that Aro had an infection in his vertebrae, which needed to be treated with antibiotics for at least six months to a year.

During the exam, **a thyroid tumor was also found** and later surgically removed. Today K9 Aro is home with his family and recovering well after surgery, with a good prognosis for the future.

Thanks to our generous donors and sponsors, K9 Aro can enjoy his retirement as a healthy dog. And we're proud to report that **Paws of Honor has paid for 100% of Aro's medical care -- totaling \$16,000.** Your donations make it possible for Paws of Honor to continue to be there for Aro, his family, and the other K9 heroes we are honored to serve.

K9 Aro's story is heartwarming -- but it's far from unique. Because every day we at Paws of Honor put our heart and soul into serving the retired military



*I'm K9 Lladley, a 10-year-old Labrador Retriever. I served as an Explosive Detection K9 for the Amtrak Police Department for nine years. I was named after James Patrick Ladley who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Paws of Honor provided me with medical care after I retired from service.*

and law enforcement K9's across America -- 502 since 2015! -- that have poured *their* heart and soul into serving our country, locally or globally.

As K9 Aro's handler told us: **"It wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for your organization.** My family and I are so grateful to each and every one of you."

**"Thanks to all of you, we have more time with Aro.** More time to shower him with hugs and kisses, more time for my daughters to play around with their doggy brother, more time for him to be lazy around the house like any other inside house dog ... We will forever be grateful to you and your organization."

**K9 Aro and his family owe that gift of time to our generous supporters like you --** who make it possible for handlers like Aro's to afford expensive, lifesaving care for their best friend and faithful companion.

**So thank you for your kindness, and your dedication to serving America's deserving retired working dogs** (and their handlers) in their golden years. I hope you enjoy the updates and stories of hope and uplifting endings that are enclosed in your supporter-exclusive *K9 Corner* newsletter -- highlighting all the good your generosity is doing for our four-legged heroes!

### *Inside Your Paws of Honor Newsletter:*

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# Meet These K9 Heroes NEW to Paws of Honor!



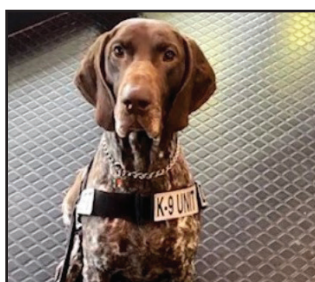
## Explosive Detection K9 Cappy

I'm **K9 Cappy**, a seven-year-old Labrador/Golden Retriever. I loved my job working as an **Explosive Detection K9** for the **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)**. A highlight of my career was traveling to Florida to conduct a presidential sweep. I loved working and did my job well to earn my squeaky ball! Since retirement, I spend my days chasing lizards, swimming at the beach and relaxing on the couch.



## Narcotics Detection K9 Swagger

I'm **K9 Swagger** and I began my career at two-years-old when I began working as a **Narcotics Detection K9** for the **Broward Sheriff's Office** in Florida. I was initially assigned to the major narcotics unit in 2015 then shortly thereafter to the interdiction unit. I worked at many different locations across Fort Lauderdale and was responsible for the seizure of over \$1.7 million in drug-related currency. I enjoy sleeping in retirement ... and they tell me I earned it!



## Explosive Detection K9 Hudini

Hi! I'm **K9 Hudini** and I'm a six-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer who worked as an **Explosive Detection** for the **K9 Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. I recently retired following my handler's promotion; otherwise, I would still be searching for explosives and keeping air travel safe.

## Patrol & Tracking K9 Tobi

My name is **K9 Tobi** and I retired after serving for seven years with the **Connecticut State Police**. I specialized in Patrol, Tracking, Human Cadaver, and Water Search and Rescue, and I'm credited with finding missing children and older adults. I love pup cups from Starbucks, but will snack on just about anything edible.



## Military Working Dog (MWD) Impulse

I'm **MWD Impulse** and I served in the **U.S. Army** and was stationed at Fort Myer in Virginia. I deployed to Iraq and completed several missions for the President and other dignitaries. Today I'm happy to be retired and I love to sleep, go on daily walks, and eat my favorite snacks, including peanut butter, whipped cream, and bacon ... what a combo!





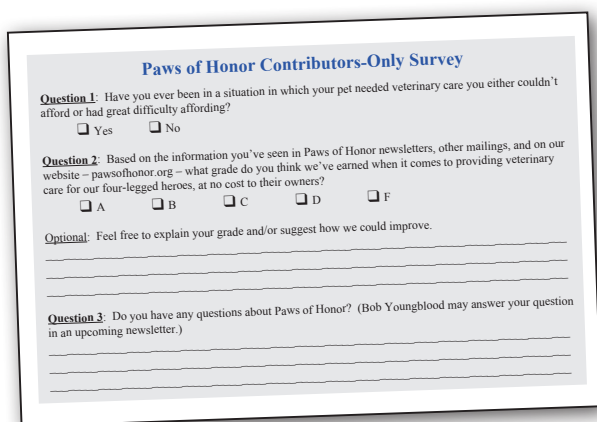
## **We Asked ... You Answered ... We're Listening:** **Feedback from Paws of Honor Supporters Like YOU**

Paw of Honor regularly reaches out to our hero supporters and other like-minded Americans to share the reality of the plight of our retired K9 heroes. Because most Americans don't know (as you do) that, despite their years of loyal and courageous service, law enforcement and military working dogs aren't entitled to any medical benefits once retired.

But we also want to hear from you -- because your support for our heroes makes you a valued member of the Paws of Honor family. That's why we regularly include surveys in our correspondence with you, asking your thoughts and opinions on everything from the plight of our retired K9 heroes to your reasons for supporting Paws of Honor.

And it's our honor to hear your thoughts. Thousands of patriotic, dog-loving Americans have completed and returned our surveys, some results of which we are sharing with you below. We value your feedback and are eager to hear your thoughts on the work we are doing for America's K9 heroes!

- **99%** of the responders think federal and state legislators should help provide adequate funding to provide veterinary care costs for these incredible retired dogs for serving the public.
- **99%** have, or have had, a pet companion.



**Paws of Honor Contributors-Only Survey**

**Question 1:** Have you ever been in a situation in which your pet needed veterinary care you either couldn't afford or had great difficulty affording?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

**Question 2:** Based on the information you've seen in Paws of Honor newsletters, other mailings, and on our website -- pawsofhonor.org -- what grade do you think we've earned when it comes to providing veterinary care for our four-legged heroes, at no cost to their owners?  
☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F

**Optional:** Feel free to explain your grade and/or suggest how we could improve.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:** Do you have any questions about Paws of Honor? (Bob Youngblood may answer your question in an upcoming newsletter.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- **96%** responded saying they have personally been in a situation in which their pet needed veterinary care and they either couldn't afford it or had great difficulty affording it.
- **48%** have friends or neighbors who have a retired military or law enforcement K9 -- **95%** of whom have struggled to afford the expensive veterinary care these dogs often require.
- **96%** of our supporters think Paws of Honor has earned an "A" grade when it comes to providing veterinary care for our four-legged heroes, at no cost to their owners.

*Please share your thoughts on the surveys we mail. Your input allows us to better serve our heroes -- and YOU!*



*Your faithful partnership with Paws of Honor allows us to support heroes like retired Explosive Detection K9 Tarzan, who recently passed away. K9 Tarzan was a 12-year-old Belgian Malinois who served eight years with the United States Secret Service, protecting three U.S. Presidents with his handler.*

## **Paws of Honor Sends YOUR Petition to U.S. Governors**

As a valued Paws of Honor supporter and friend of our K9 heroes, you may have recently signed and returned one of our petitions addressed to your governor, U.S. Representative and Senators. These Official Citizen Petitions urged our legislators to do everything in their power to give our K9 heroes medical care retirement benefits just like their human partners, for their unique and special service protecting our country and our citizens from harm through their dangerous work on the front lines. Paws of Honor recently delivered an enormous batch of these petitions to put the pressure on our representatives in government to support our K9 heroes!





# Paws of Honor Heroes at Work

## Paws of Honor Volunteer Reveals "Amazing" Benefits of Hydrotherapy

Lisa C. is a Paws of Honor volunteer who helps us provide aquatic therapy to some of our amazing K9 heroes. This is her story, told in her own words, of what it's like to help our heroes...

"I LOVE Paws of Honor and what they have deemed their purpose. To help retired working dogs. **These dogs did not ask for the job of protecting us, but they give it their all, every single day** ... Many of them have to retire early due to stress, injury, early onset of arthritis and even PTSD.

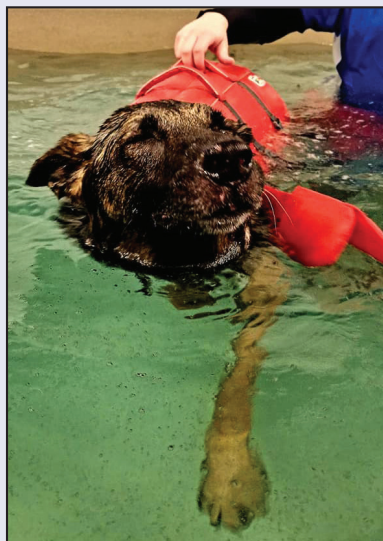
"In the past, these amazing pups were discarded. They were not allowed to stay with their handler. The one person they trust the very most. Many times the handler was unable to provide the necessary medical care because, let's face it, aging is expensive. Well no more. **Paws of Honor has filled this monetary gap and now many of our working dogs are able to spend their retirement with their family.**

"I have been fortunate enough to provide hydrotherapy to these amazing pups in the Fairfax area. Senna and Gento were the first two working dogs to grace us with their presence. They both loved coming to swim or walk [on] the underwater treadmill ... and we loved them.

"Swimming is a great way for the younger but still energetic retired pups to burn off pent up energy. The underwater treadmill is amazing for retired dogs of all ages. It helps maintain and even rebuild lost muscle mass. For the arthritic pup it does wonders for decreasing the pain and stiffness arthritis brings with it. Gento's owner felt it kept Gento mobile for much longer than he anticipated. Which was a win/win for both! **It made me happy to see Gento and Senna so happy and relaxed with us.**

"**One of the other amazing aspects of Paws of Honor is the total family type commitment by everyone who is involved with the organization.** It is evident that each person has one goal: [to] support the retired working dogs and their handlers by eliminating the expensive veterinary cost of senior dogs and giving them the best retirement possible.

"**Thank you Paws of Honor for all that you do** and for allowing me to be a small piece of the puzzle."



K9 Gento, a retired Explosive Detection K9 for the United States Secret Service, enjoys his physical therapy at Aquatic Paws thanks to a generous gift from our supporters.

## Did You Know... 7 Fascinating Facts About Police K9s

Paws of Honor is proud to provide accessible, high-quality veterinary care and products at no charge for retired hero K9s across America in return for their commitment and sacrifice for our country. This includes over 225 law enforcement K9s (past and present) in our Paws of Honor family!

Did you know ...

- Police dogs are primarily used for **apprehension, detection, and search and rescue**. That includes tasks such as: searching for drugs and explosives; locating missing people; and finding crime scene evidence.
- Most dogs reach maturity and can concentrate on training to **begin work as a police dog between 12 and 15 months** of age.
- Police departments prefer to **retire dogs around nine years old** -- meaning most K9 officers serve their communities for about eight years.
- Police dogs risk their lives daily to protect and assist law enforcement personnel, and are often the first to enter dangerous situations. In 2022, **25 K9 officers lost their lives in line-of-duty deaths** with causes ranging from gunfire to vehicular assault to fire.
- **The larger the police dog is, the shorter his/her working life span will be**, because larger dog breeds age faster than smaller dogs.
- **Environment, maintenance, health, and hazardous situations** are all factors that contribute to a police dog's life expectancy.
- Common police dog breeds include **German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Bloodhounds, Beagles, and Labrador Retrievers** as well as several others.



K9 Jax recently retired from the City of Manassas Park (Virginia) Police Department where he served as a Dual-Purpose Narcotics and Patrol canine for six years. Paws of Honor was able to help Jax when he needed to have a 15-pound splenic mass surgically removed. Thanks to your donations, Jax's handler didn't have to worry about the financial burden of emergency surgery; he could focus on Jax, who is healthy and thriving today!

## TSA Recognizes Paws of Honor's Unique Mission

Our mission is to provide accessible, high-quality veterinary care and products at no charge for retired military and law enforcement K9s across America in return for their commitment and sacrifice for our country.

That includes the hero pups who served our country with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) doing everything from securing our airports to detecting improvised explosive devices. (Paws of Honor currently has 38 retired TSA K9 officers enrolled in our program!)

Paws of Honor is excited to share that the TSA recently published a wonderful article about our program -- further spreading our mission of support for America's retired K9s. The article featured Paws of Honor heroes K9 Cheddar, K9 Maggie, and K9 Mala ... and we hope it will serve to bring more handlers, K9 heroes, and donors into the Paws of Honor family!



K9 Samson -- one of the first proprietary TSA K9s that started the TSA K9 program in 2008 -- was just one of the many retired TSA hero pups Paws of Honor has supported over the years.

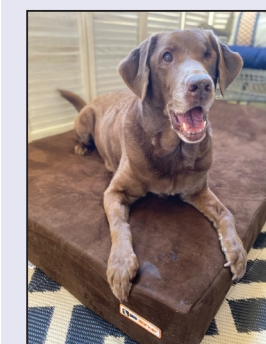
## Paws of Honor Featured On The Kelly Clarkson Show

Paws of Honor recently made a very special appearance on *The Kelly Clarkson Show* -- an amazing opportunity to raise awareness about the plight of America's retired K9 heroes.

Kelly interviewed veterinarian and Paws of Honor Board Member, Dr. Buck Drummond, along with handler Rene Smith and her retired K9 Maggie. Paws of Honor was privileged to help Rene and Maggie when Maggie needed expensive surgery to remove her eye after she developed cancer.



Paws of Honor Board Member Dr. Buck Drummond, handler Rene Smith, and retired K9 Maggie, backstage at The Kelly Clarkson Show.



We are incredibly grateful to have been given a chance to share our mission on such a large platform -- as well as for the generous donations made by Kelly Clarkson and her friends at BARK.

Today K9 Maggie is all smiles -- and cancer-free!

## Paws of Honor's 5th Annual Golf Tournament to be Held in May

Paws of Honor is eagerly anticipating our 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to be held on Friday, May 19, 2023 starting at 8 a.m. It's sure to be an amazing day of golfing, lunch, and fun -- all to benefit the retired K9 heroes of Paws of Honor!

The tournament will be held at Westfields Golf Course in Clifton, Virginia.

For more information on how you can join us on the links, or to be a sponsor of this wonderful event, please visit our website at [www.pawsofhonor.com](http://www.pawsofhonor.com). America's four-legged heroes are so grateful for your support!





# Join the "K9 Companion Monthly Giving Club" You'll Receive Less Mail and the Money Saved Makes Your Gift Go Farther!

Paws of Honor's **K9 Companion Club** is a simple and secure way you can make an even bigger difference for America's K9 heroes after they retire from service. So join the **K9 Companion Club**, Paws of Honor's monthly giving program – and enjoy the great benefits that make it as easy as possible to continue your faithful patriotic support for America's four-legged heroes!

As a generous supporter, you already know that once retired these dogs are considered "surplus equipment" by the government -- in spite of their years of faithful service. And they receive no veterinary or medical care from the government, at a time when their care is most critical and expensive and even though their physically challenging service often leaves them with even greater needs than other older dogs. By enrolling in the **K9 Companion Club**, you can continue to do your part to provide them with the care they need to live out their retirement in comfort.

- Your monthly donation is conveniently charged to your credit card each month, so you don't have to spend time writing checks or searching for stamps.
- You'll receive less mail from us – and the money we save on postage and printing helps your gifts go further each month. (We'll continue sharing important program updates and newsletters like this one.)
- You're free to cancel your **K9 Companion Club** membership at any time.

Your monthly gift can be life-changing in any amount -- especially today, when more K9 heroes and their handlers than ever need our help because of the ongoing economic challenges. They dedicated their lives to serving our country ... so now it's our turn to care for them in their sunset years!

So I hope you'll join the **K9 Companion Club** today – to help ensure we have the funds we need to support our K9 heroes in desperate need of urgent medical care and ongoing treatment to improve their quality of life. To enroll, please see your enclosed reply form.



Your monthly gift supports canine heroes like Arnost and Vvirgil. Vvirgil worked as a Dual-Purpose Explosive and Patrol dog for seven years, primarily attached to Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) in Washington state. Arnost served nine years in the U.S. Navy as a Dual-Purpose Explosive Detection and Patrol dog, completing numerous United States Secret Service missions and deployment missions abroad. Last year Arnost's rear leg was amputated due to a bone tumor -- but thanks to our generous donors, his family was able to focus on him and not his veterinary bills. Like virtually all our nation's retired K9s, these hero pups receive zero retirement or other benefits from the government, so Paws of Honor will support Arnost and Vvirgil by providing 100% of their veterinary and medical care as we are able!

## Fast Facts About Paws of Honor

(as of March 2023)

🐾 502 K9s enrolled since 2015

🐾 38 states served

🐾 \$2.5 million funding provided

🐾 308 active enrolled K9s

🐾 146 departments/agencies represented

*Thank you for your continued support as we help the heroes who put their lives on the line to protect us.*

# Why You Should Consider a Bequest to Paws of Honor

## Helping the Four-Legged Heroes of Tomorrow Could Be Your Legacy!



Your bequest helps support hero pups like K9 Harriet, who worked as an Explosive Detection dog for the United States Federal Government for eight years. Harriet served our country proudly by working in Iraq and Afghanistan with her handler, and recently celebrated her 12th birthday!

*“If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.” -- Humorist Will Rogers*





You have already shown by your generosity and care that you are committed to supporting America’s brave retired military and law enforcement K9s. **Does your financial legacy do the same?** It’s simple and effective to do so by making a bequest to Paws of Honor in your will, insurance policy, or other planned giving option!

### Proper Language to Include When Making Your Bequest to Paws of Honor:

*“After Fulfilling All Other Provisions, I Give, Devise and Bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ Percent of the Residue of My Estate to Paws of Honor Tax ID # 47-5643489, Which Pays for the Medical Care of Retired Military as well as Federal, State, and Local K9s.”*

*To schedule a confidential discussion of your options, email us at [info@pawsofhonor.org](mailto:info@pawsofhonor.org) or call (703) 403-8281. Paws of Honor does not provide legal or financial advice to prospective or current donors. Always consult your attorney and financial advisor before making any important decisions regarding your estate.*

## More Ways You Can Help America's Retired Working Dogs:


-  **SIGN** your enclosed “thank you” card to thank a retired K9’s handler (usually a military veteran or police officer) for their service and the sacrifices they’re making to care for their former partner, or to thank one of our veterinarians or vet clinic staff members.
-  **SHOP** <https://store.pawsofhonor.org/shop-all/> for great gear including t-shirts, coffee mugs, and magnets to help spread the word about Paws of Honor and how we’re helping America’s heroes.
-  **SEND** us the name and e-mail address of any pet owner or handler you’re aware of who needs Paws of Honor’s professional veterinary services so we can contact them and see if we can be of assistance. Or give them our website ([www.pawsofhonor.org](http://www.pawsofhonor.org)) and they can apply on-line.
-  **LEARN** then **SHARE** everything you can about the roles that these dogs play in our world, the level of training they receive, and their dedication to service in keeping us safe from danger. Spread the word on social media outlets about the needs of our retired working dogs.

## See More of the Wonderful Dogs You’re Helping on Facebook & Instagram!

For more on **your generosity in action** -- and to fill your social media feed with the joy of cute puppy faces! -- **be sure to “like” Paws of Honor on Facebook and Instagram (@pawsofhonor)**! You’ll find real-time updates of hero pups in need, and see the exciting details of your generosity’s impact ... including heartwarming photos and stories from the K9 heroes your giving supports!

## "Thank YOU" From K9s and Handlers Helped By Donors Like You

*Your gift to Paws of Honor helps provide veterinary care and products free of charge for retired military and law enforcement K9s, who served our country bravely and are now in need of medical attention. The officers, handlers, and owners you're helping are so grateful for your support! Because, without your help, many would struggle to provide their furry companions with the proper medical attention they need to live healthy happy lives, even after they've retired from a life of service. The messages below are for **YOU** from the families of K9s supported by generous friends of Paws of Honor.*



"Upon his retirement, I thought I would be able to care for my partner -- then two knee surgeries, a broken leg, infection and oral surgery later, I was worried about his future care. Paws of Honor (POH) has been a blessing. **Stepping in to ensure care for my boy they have been beyond incredible**, with full support. So appreciative to have been selected for the program!"

– Handler of an anonymous Paws of Honor hero pup

"Paws of Honor is a great organization. My K9 partner Barney served the citizens of Loudoun County VA for 9 years as a Patrol and Narcotics Detection K9. Throughout his life he's suffered from gastrointestinal issues and to this date requires a specialized diet and medications. Upon retiring, I became responsible for his veterinary care and those costs add up quickly. Paws of Honor immediately accepted Barney into their program and have covered his veterinary care since his retirement. I personally know at least 10 other retired service dogs that Paws of Honor assist. **This organization has given these service dogs the retirement they deserve.** I can't say enough about the good this organization does."

– Handler of K9 Barney, a retired Dual-Purpose Narcotics and Patrol K9 with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

"I cannot say enough good things about Paws of Honor! Paws of Honor took care of my K-9 partner during his retired years that ensured he had a great quality of life until the day he passed. Niko required daily and monthly medication for pain management as well as prescription food for his dietary needs. Niko being a floppy eared pup also required medication for his ears the last year or so. **Paws of Honor basically gave my partner the benefits that a retired 'HERO' deserved and earned during his many years of service** to his agency and for that I am eternally grateful to them!"

– Handler of K9 Niko, a retired Explosive Detection K9 for the Department of Homeland Security U.S. Federal Protective Service

"Paws of Honor is an amazing organization. **They helped us enjoy the time with our K9 Rex without the added stress of financials.** These K9s deserve the longest retirement possible. Paws of Honor gives retired K9s the time and care they deserve. We will be forever grateful [for] what they did for our family."

– Handler of K9 Rex, a retired Explosive Detection K9 for the Department of Defense